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Title: Need to protect Indian fishermen from attacks by Sri Lankan Navy and take measures for release of Indian fishermen languishing in the jails of Sri Lanka.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Even after repeatedly bringing to the notice of the Union Government incidents pertaining to continous violent attacks against the Indian Fishermen in our own waters between the coast of our country and the island nation of Sri Lanka, especially near the shores of my Constituency, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, the ill-treatment by the armed forces of Sri Lanka meted out to our Indian fishermen goes on unabated. Even recently, many fishermen from my Constituency were brutally attacked and were abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy. Presently, about 100 fishermen are languishing in the jails in Thalaimannar and other places in that country. Since there families are undergoing mental agony and sufferings, I request the External Affairs Minister to take immediate steps for the release of all those fishermen.

In all these years several fishermen have lost their lives, hundreds of them have been seriously injured and thousands of fishermen have lost their catchments, fishing nets and even their boats thereby seriously affecting their livelihood. The continuous sufferings of the Indian fishermen at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy is a cause for worry in Tamil Nadu and the same needs to be addressed by the Union Government urgently.

Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister to evolve a coordinated mechanism to help save the lives and livelihood of our fishermen.